**MYP4 Humanities**

Humanities aims to inspire global awareness and interest in both the natural and manufactured world. It focuses on the sociological, economical and physical aspects of country development and human demographics.

Humanities encourages students to gain and develop knowledge, conceptual understanding, research skills, analytical and interpretive skills, and communication skills, contributing to the development of the student as a whole. World Studies aims to encourage students to respect and understand the world around them, and to provide skills based to facilitate further study. This is achieved through the study of individuals, societies and environments in a wide context: historical, contemporary, geographical, political, social, economic, religious, technological and cultural.

The five key concepts of MYP Humanities include: Time, Place & Space, Systems, Global Awareness and Change. Using an inquiry based approach to learning students will investigate issues and topics they are interested in. Questions are encouraged and treated seriously; students will learn that Humanities allows us to inquire about all aspects of our world. A focus of this course will be on the origins of humanity and world geography. Where possible, content in this course will be connected to other courses to allow a more holistic approach to learning.

The MYP 4 curriculum is conveyed using the MYP five areas of interactions. The areas of interactions are: Approaches to Learning, Community and Service, Human Ingenuity, Environment, and Health and Social Education. Students will connect daily to the world through current event analysis and questioning. A continuous focus throughout the MYP 4 program will be on human ingenuity and the effects of change on society. Students will also be investigating various examples of power driven nations around the world and the extremes they will go to, to succeed in obtaining or maintaining power. The skills most stressed in this course are: map analysis, inquiring and questioning, developing critical thinking skills, communicating ideas, improving research skills and presentation skills.

**Course Topics**

**Government Systems**

investigation of the benefits, and consequences of having regimented government systems

successes and failures of various government systems throughout history

analytical understanding of how and why people seek to maintain social justice

**Stereotypes**

analysis of interpretations and assumptions made about different cultures, gender, political views, ethnic and religious groups

the affects of generalizations and how they create false images, and ideas

exploration of methods and perceptions that debunk stereotypes

**Conflict and Terrorism**

investigation of what it means to be a terrorist and how the term can be defined

analysis of the motives and methods of terrorism and how it affects a nation

research and understanding of specific terrorist organizations

**Human Demographics**

the distribution of populations and how they can be defined at multiple levels

human migration patterns and factors that contribute to population density

immigration processes and the interpretation of population pyramids

**Changing Society**

the effects of change on society

how change has brought on war and violence as well as freedom and peace

**Global Awareness**

awareness of current global events linked to content areas

investigation and understanding of significant events and their relation to prior knowledge and experience

**Teaching**

World Studies is taught six forty-five minute periods per week. Students are taught and use the inquiry approach to learning. Units are student-centred, focusing on their responses and interest in the central question. Students' questions are therefore not only encouraged, but the key to all learning. Students will question, “why?” and “how?” in addition to learning where and when. As students investigate issues they are interested in, their individual needs as learners will be met through a differentiated approach. Individual, small-group and class work is fundamental to the study of World Studies. As we study and learn about people in the world, so too do we learn about those in our class and ourselves. Technology will be incorporated in lessons when available and beneficial. Central to the idea of World Studies is discussion and awareness of the world around you. Students will be engaged daily in investigating issues through various means. They will need to think critically and apply their knowledge to create connections and understandings.

**Assessment**

In MYP 4 World Studies, all assignments will be assessed using the MYP assessment criteria expressed in rubric form. Not all criterion will be assessed in every assignment. The student will be measured on what he/she can do by using a range of differentiated formative and summative assessments. These include tests and quizzes, campaigns, posters, journal responses, persuasive essays, presentations, research reports, discussions and creative projects. A progress report will be sent home at the ends of each trimester.

**Materials**

Students are required to bring an A4 sized notebook to each class. Notes, class work and homework tasks will be organized in this notebook. Paper and worksheets are required to be organized in a pocket folder or binder. Students will need a journal (unspecified-size) to record reflections, current events and classroom discussion topics.